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Australia,* Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland,* Hungary,* Japan, Kyrgyzstan,* Mexico, Netherlands,* New Zealand, Philippines,* Spain* and Thailand:* draft resolution

International Year of Volunteers

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly,*

"*Recalling* its resolution 52/17 of 20 November 1997, in which it proclaimed the year 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers, and also recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/44 of 22 July 1997,

"*Recalling also* the outcome document of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[1] entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva in June 2000, in which the General Assembly recommended the promotion of the involvement of volunteers in social development, *inter alia*, by encouraging Governments, taking into account the views of all actors, to develop comprehensive strategies and programmes by raising public awareness about the value and opportunities of voluntarism and by facilitating an enabling environment for individuals and other actors of civil society to engage in, and the private sector to support, voluntary activities,

"*Welcoming* the decision of the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-eighth session, to include the subject of volunteering in its agenda for its thirty-ninth session in 2001,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.
[1] To be issued.

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"*Taking into account* the valuable contribution of volunteering both to economic and social development,

"*Bearing in mind* that volunteering is one of the important ways in which people participate in societal development,

"1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and the United Nations system for the promotion of volunteerism and, specifically, in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Volunteers, and encourages them to continue their efforts;

"2. *Calls on* States to promote, especially during the International Year of Volunteers, an environment conducive to the discussion, at national and local levels, of the characteristics and trends of volunteer action in their own societies, including the major challenges which the International Year of Volunteers can help address, and to incorporate the subject of volunteering into high-level and other meetings and events during 2001;

"3. *Invites* States to consider all means available for more people to become involved in voluntary action and to be drawn from a broader cross-section of society, especially from groups, including youth, older people and people with disabilities, in view of the benefits accruing to volunteers through volunteer action;

"4. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, eminent persons and other relevant actors to take all possible measures to promote volunteer action, especially during the Year, in particular at the local level, and in cooperation with, *inter alia*, local authorities, community leaders, the media and schools;

"5. *Encourages* United Nations system organizations to pay attention to the Year in their regular work and in their relevant meetings and to continue to collaborate with the United Nations Volunteers programme as focal point for the Year to ensure that the contributions of volunteers in their own areas of concern are fully recognized;

"6. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to make appropriate suggestions and recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to further the contribution of volunteering to social development;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit his note transmitting the contribution of the United Nations Volunteers programme to the preparations for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world",[2] as an official document of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development, and requests him, furthermore, to disseminate it widely within the United Nations system, including by making it available to the Commission on Human Settlements acting as preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the Habitat Agenda, the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly for Follow-up to the World Summit

[2] A/AC.253/16/Add.7.

for Children, the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

"8. *Decides* that two plenary meetings of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly will be devoted to volunteering, to coincide with the close of the International Year of Volunteers on 5 December 2001, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on ways Governments and the United Nations system could support volunteering for discussion on that occasion;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly in 2002 on the outcome of the International Year of Volunteers and its follow-up."